

Monson Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes for

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Present: Madeline (chairman), Jenna Berry, Jan Demaio

Also present: Kim Uliana, Mary Hull, Amanda Renna (on Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by Madeline at 5:00 pm

The first order of business was to discuss the Capture the Flag event. We had the organizer, Amanda Renna attending via Zoom to discuss her event. She is the owner of Travel Nitch, a non-profit organization that helps to inspire kids through real world travel. The event is a trivia hunt to bring families together and move around town to select locations to answer questions and “capture flags” to win prizes. Amanda was requesting the use of Veteran’s Field as a starting point, as well as using the parking lot for a food truck and originally for live music. She had decided to no longer do the music. The Select Board already approved the food truck.

Jan Demaio made a motion to waive the usual field fee for the event.

Jenna and Maddie seconded.

The next discussion was about fall soccer. It has been a busy year for soccer sign-ups, with close to 40 signed up for our First Start program already. Currently, we also had a boys’ team and a girls’ team with combined age groups for grades 3-6. There are also 3 teams for 1st and 2nd grade and we are looking for a 4th coach as the registrations keep coming in. With the large number of First Start kids, we will need to reach out to Eric Degnan, the varsity coach about whether some of the varsity team will be able to help again for community service.

There had been a few complaints that came in about the spectator areas on the fields, most noted was at Flynt Park. The fields look great, but the spectator areas could use weed whacking around the benches and fences. The playing field at Lower Rogers also has to be moved after the new fence cut into some of the play area.

Jan made a motion to approve the last meeting minutes.

Jenna and Maddie seconded.

The latest news on the pool is that the pool cover will be removed tomorrow, August 20th. The process will take about 4 hours. The pool is also looking for lifeguards. Sunday open swims had to be canceled until a new lifeguard is hired. Liz Manley, pool director, has requested designating 10 spots for the pool in the parking lot. Jan will work on getting a stencil.

We would like to schedule two movie nights this year. One in September and one in October with a Halloween themed movie. Our tentative dates are September 17th or 24th and October

29th. Kim will reach out to FunFlicks for availability. The movie that would be shown for the September date will be Small Foot. A possible movie for October is Hocus Pocus.

Jan made a motion to set funds for both movies.

All were in favor.

Tim Pascale (director) will be back next week and we can approve the FY 22 Budget at that time and focus on goals and objectives. Madeline would like to hear ideas from everybody. Could we possibly do a Paint and Sip night?

The Hampden County Sheriff's project. We should do a post about the wood chips and flowers including the Commissioners, Highway Department, Cemetery, and School Department. Talk to Audra.

It was mentioned that a second gate should be put up at Veteran's Field. We will talk to Tim when he returns.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16th @5pm.

Kim will invite Brenda Battige to the next meeting to discuss a Pride event that she would like to have held at Veteran's Field next year.

Jan made a motion to close the meeting at 6:15pm

All seconded.

Minutes taken by,

Kim Uliana